

XIV.—*Field-Notes on the Birds of the Estancia Sta. Elena, Argentine Republic.*—Part IV.* By A. H. HOLLAND.
With Remarks by P. L. SCLATER.

[MR. HOLLAND'S field-notes on the present occasion relate to 15 species. I have carefully examined the specimens, and append remarks where they are required. As will be observed, the Cormorants of Argentina still want further attention before we can make them out.—P. L. S.]

1. MIMUS TRIURUS (Vieill.). (Arg. Orn. i. p. 8.)

I found this species breeding here last year (1895) in November. The nests were placed in thistle plants, some three feet off the ground, and composed of roots, twigs, and hay, lined with fine grass and a few hairs. The eggs are three in number, long in shape, of a pale bluish green, uniformly covered with minute spots of pale rust and faint purple-grey.

2. PHRYGILUS CARBONARIUS (d'Orb. et Lafr.). (Arg. Orn. i. p. 54.)

Male, Oct. 13th, 1895. Legs straw-colour; beak yellow; iris brown.

This, I believe, is *P. carbonarius*. It was with a flock of Chingolos, and probably had stayed to rest while migrating south.

[This is the only specimen of *Phrygilus carbonarius* I have seen, except the single example in the Brit. Mus., with which I have compared it. See B. M. C. xii. p. 791.—P. L. S.]

3. ZONOTRICHIA HYPOCHONDRIA (d'Orb. et Lafr.). (Arg. Orn. i. p. 60.)

Female, Oct. 3rd, 1895. Legs brown; iris hazel; beak horn-colour, under bill slate-colour.

I found this bird feeding on the ground along the edge of some slight undergrowth of willows in company with several

* See Part I., Ibis, 1893, p. 483; Part II., Ibis, 1895, p. 213; and Part III., Ibis, 1896, p. 315.

other Finches. It is a shy bird and not easily observed, and probably passes here only on migration.

[Likewise a rare species. There are two Bolivian skins in the Brit. Mus. See B. M. C. xii. p. 636.—P. L. S.]

4. *TÆNIOPTERA MURINA* (d'Orb. et Lafr.). (Arg. Orn. i. p. 119.)

A winter visitor, living about the plantation around the house, where it is constantly seen perched on some slight elevation, such as a low bush or tall weed, on the watch for insects, which it catches on the flight. Sometimes, however, it feeds on the ground for a lengthy period, in the manner of *Machetornis rixosa*.

5. *CNIPOLEGUS ANTHRACINUS*, Heine. (Arg. Orn. i. p. 126.)

A female, March 22nd, 1896. Legs black; iris black; beak black.

A shy visitor in the winter-season, living amongst the hedges or other thick plantation.

6. *CNIPOLEGUS HUDSONI*, ScL. (Arg. Orn. i. p. 126.)

Two males, Oct. 3rd, 1895. Legs black; iris hazel; beak blue, tip black.

A spring visitor, passing in migration and living among the willow trees, whence it makes short flights after insects.

7. *HAPALOCERCUS HOLLANDI*, ScL. (Ibis, 1896, p. 316.)

This little Tyrant, of which I sent a specimen in the previous collection, is a summer visitor, and breeds here, living in pairs among the weeds and feeding on insects. Its flight is undulating. Its cup-shaped nest, composed of fine dry grass interwoven, without other material, is a very open structure, so much so that one can see through it either way. It is suspended from several weed-stalks by a few spiders' cocoons.

8. *ANÆRETES PARULUS* (Kittl.). (Arg. Orn. i. p. 141.)

This is a summer visitor and breeder, living in pairs among the weeds.

9. *HYDROPSALIS FURCIFERA* (Vieill.). (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 15.)

I found a nest of this Goatsucker last November. It was placed on the bare ground, where the bird had scraped a slight hollow underneath some willow trees, and contained two eggs of a dull creamy white colour, profusely marked with lines of pale brown and dark grey.

[See Mr. Aplin's notes on the breeding of this species in Uruguay and the figure of its egg, *Ibis*, 1894, p. 188, pl. v. fig. 5.—P. L. S.]

10. *CIRCUS MACROPTERUS*, Vieill. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 58.)

The female of this Harrier in breeding plumage differs greatly from the male in having the entire under surface of a deep ferruginous colour. I will procure a specimen and forward it. The nests are placed not far from one another in rush-beds, and are composed of large platforms of dry bulrushes raised above the shallow water and well concealed by the growing rushes above them. The eggs are from three to five in number, of a dull white, coarse background, with an irregular ring of blood-red at the broad end. Some have only a faint blotch, and others are nearly pure white with a few ingrained spots of dirty grey.

11. *BUTEO SWAINSONI*, Bp. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 59, pl. xvi.)

Fairly common. All through this winter there has been a number of immature birds of this species living about the estancia.

12. *GERANOÆTUS MELANOLEUCUS* (Vieill.). (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 64.)

Uncommon. A few of these Eagles have been here this winter, but they do not remain long in one place.

13. *PHALACROCORAX*, sp. inc.

A male obtained Sept. 15th, 1896. Legs black; iris black; bill dark brown above, tip horn-colour, beneath pale horn-colour; skin between the mandibles yellow.

Since I commenced to write these notes I have procured a Cormorant, similar to those observed at Espartilla (*cf.* *Ibis*,

1892, p. 204), which I think is undescribed. Its length is less than that of *Ph. brasiliensis*, but its tail is longer. It is occasionally seen here in spring and summer, when it associates with the Gulls in their breeding-place. The present specimen was captured by a friend, who kept it alive for three days; hence its cut wing.

[If this belongs to a species distinct from *P. brasiliensis* (which I agree with Mr. Holland seems likely), it is probably *P. gracilis* (Meyen), described and figured as *Halieus gracilis* in his Beitr. z. Zool. p. 237, tab. xxxii., from specimens obtained in Chili. But I cannot decide the question without additional examples.—P. L. S.]

14. DENDROCYGNA FULVA (Gm.). (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 126.)

A male, March 22nd, 1896. Legs slate-blue; iris black; bill slate-blue, tip black.

A winter and summer visitor in flocks, but not common.

15. GELOCHELIDON ANGLICA (Mont.); Saunders, B. M. C. xxv. p. 25.

Sterna anglica, Holland, Ibis, 1890, p. 428; 1892, p. 212.

[Mr. Holland sends home a fine adult male of this Tern, obtained at Sta. Elena, Oct. 12th, 1895. "Legs black; iris brown; bill black." He notes it as "fairly common," so that there can be now no doubt whatever that it should be added to the Argentine list.—P. L. S.]

XV.—On a Further Collection of Birds, made by Messrs. La Touche and Rickett, from N.W. Fohkien. By HENRY H. SLATER.

(Plate IV.)

I AM again indebted to my two indefatigable friends in the far East for the privilege of examining an interesting collection of birds, selected from a much larger number, obtained at Kuatun (cf. 'Ibis,' 1896, pp. 489-490) in May and June 1896. I am pleased to find among them some confirmation of an expectation formed a good many years since—namely, that many of the Himalayan birds, hitherto